

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.-6. (Cancelled Without Prejudice)

7. (Currently Amended) The time slot and carrier allocation method according to claim 16 claim 6, further comprising transmitting a control ~~the second~~ stream of data to the first and second receivers ~~receiver~~ using the common reallocated carrier.

8. (Cancelled Without Prejudice)

9. (Currently Amended) The time slot and carrier allocation method according to claim 16 claim 6, wherein the single first stream of data comprises audio/video data.

10. (Cancelled Without Prejudice)

11. (Currently Amended) The time slot and carrier allocation method according to claim 16 claim 6, wherein a number of unused carriers allocated to the control ~~reallocated to the second~~ stream of data is less than a specified maximum.

12. (Currently Amended) The time slot and carrier allocation method according to claim 11 claim 6, wherein the specified maximum comprises 10% of available carriers.

13. (Currently Amended) The time slot and carrier allocation method according to claim 16 claim 6, wherein the communication system comprises an Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexed TDMA communication system.

14. (Currently Amended) The time slot and carrier allocation method according to claim 6, wherein the new tone map specifies that an unused ~~the unused~~ carrier is to be reallocated to a plurality of other streams of data.

15. (Cancelled Without Prejudice)

16. (Currently Amended) A time slot and carrier allocation method for time division multiple access (TDMA) multiple carrier communications, comprising:

determining from a tone map that first and second time slots are generally allocated to a first and a second receiver respectively;

determining from the tone map that the first and second receivers are able to receive using a common set of carriers;

determining that a single data stream is to be transmitted to the first and second receivers; [[and]]

transmitting a new tone map to the first and second receivers that specifies that the first and second receivers are to receive the single data stream using the common set of carriers during one or more designated time slots; and

wherein the number of common carriers is greater than a threshold number of available carriers, and wherein the threshold number comprises approximately 50% of available carriers.

17. (Currently Amended) The time slot and carrier allocation method according to claim 16, further comprising transmitting the single data stream using the common set of carriers during the designated time slots.

18.-19. (Cancelled Without Prejudice)

20. (Currently Amended) The time slot and carrier allocation method according to claim 16, ~~wherein the number of common carriers is less than a threshold number of available carriers; and~~ wherein the tone map designates that the first and second receivers receive the single data stream using merged time slots.

21. (Original) An electronic storage medium storing instructions which, when executed on a programmed processor, carry out a time slot and carrier allocation method according to claim 16.

22.-30 (Cancelled Without Prejudice)